# THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**Monday, the 7th August 1950.**

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

## I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## STARRED QUESTIONS.

*Allegations against some ministers.*

* 1 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether an enquiry into certain allegations against certain past and present ministers was held by him, and if so, whether he held it of his own accord or at the instance of any higher authority;

(b) whether any person or persons were associated with him in this enquiry;

(c) what the allegations are:

(d) whether the person or persons associated with him had access to certain files, even confidential ones;

(e) whether in the course of the enquiry certain officers also were examined:

(f) under what provision of law or procedure either access to files or examination of officers was permitted;

(g) whether any report of the enquiry was submitted to any higher authority;

(h) what the findings of the enquiry were; and

(i) whether the Government will lay on the table of the House all the relevant papers including the findings of the enquiry?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) :—" (a) No enquiry was held by the Chief Minister.

" (b) to (i) Does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, are the Government prepared to say that no enquiry was held and all the reports that appeared in the Press are false? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I cannot express any opinion about what appeared in the Press. I know what information I can give on the matter and it is that no enquiry was held."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government prepared to deny that certain persons were associated in a kind of informal enquiry at least when the Hon. Chief Minister enquired into the conduct of the Ministers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir."

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JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know whether the Government propose to hold any enquiry, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir."

*Issue of Press Notes and Communiqués by the Director of Information and Publicity.*

* 2 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have perused the judgment of the High Court in the Contempt of Court proceedings in which the Director of Information and Publicity was involved;

(*b*) what the procedure adopted is in regard to issue of Press Notes and Communiqués by the Director of Information and Publicity;

(*c*) whether the Director of Information and Publicity is entitled to exercise his discretion either in issuing or withholding publication of the Press Notes and Communiqués prepared by the Departments of the Government; and

(*d*) whether, in view of the remarks of the Hon. Judges of the High Court in the Contempt of Court proceedings referred to, the Government propose to devise ways to secure immunity to the Director of Information and Publicity in respect of Press Notes prepared by other Departments of Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Press Communiqués and Press Notes are drafted by Departments of the Secretariat and are issued by the Director of Information and Publicity after they are approved in circulation to the concerned Hon. Minister, Hon. Minister for Public Works, and Hon. Chief Minister. Secretaries to Government are responsible for the contents of Press Communiqués and Press Notes and the Director of Information and Publicity is responsible for the manner of presentation of the information.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) The suggestion is being examined."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, in view of the judgment of the High Court, will the Director of Publicity be allowed to use his discretion to withhold a portion or the whole of the Communiqué if he finds it is not in public interest and he will be coming within the ambit of law if such a publication is made? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Director of Publicity will have that discretion and he will exercise that discretion in consultation with the Department and the Hon. Minister concerned."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, whether in this present case such a discretion was exercised? "